THE NEW MAMMOTH AT ST. PETERSBURG.

THE new mammoth just mounted for exhibition in the Zoological Museum at St. Petersburg, is a triumph of the taxidermist's art. The frozen skin has been cleaned, softened, and prepared. The skeleton, and as many of the surrounding soft tissues as possible, have been carefully removed from its interior and preserved separately. The animal has been actually stuffed like a modern quadruped, and placed in the attitude in which it originally died. The skin of the head and the ears are artificial, copied from the famous old specimen obtained a century ago by Adams. A model of the base of the proboscis has also been added. The skin of the trunk and limbs, however, is nearly complete, only embellished in parts by the addition of a little wool and hair from other specimens; and some deficiencies are covered by the surrounding mount, which represents the morass into which the animal slipped. The well-preserved tail is especially noteworthy, and bears a large tassel of long black hair at its tip. The animal is a young male of rather small size.

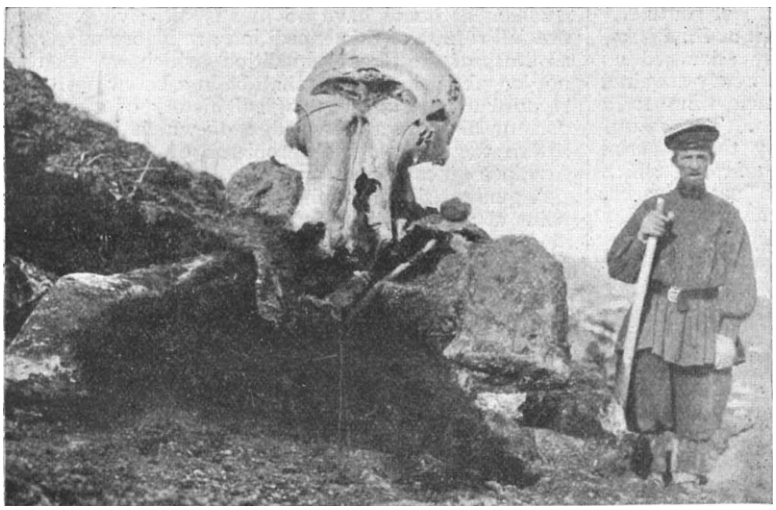

FIG. 1.—Front view of Mammoth in frozen earth on the banks of the Beresowka, Jakutsk, showing the bent fore limbs widely spread. From photograph by Dr. O. Herz.

The hopelessly-struggling aspect of this mammoth is very striking, and reproduces exactly the attitude of the carcase as it lay buried in the Siberian tundra. In fact, the chief value of the specimen depends upon the circumstance that it was scientifically disinterred, photographed at various stages in the excavation, and carefully preserved by the best modern methods. Great credit is due to Dr. Otto Herz, the leader of the expedition organised by the St. Petersburg Imperial Academy of Sciences, who undertook the arduous task of securing the carcase and transporting it to the Russian capital. His are the only photographs hitherto obtained of a mammoth buried in the tundra, and they throw important new light on the question of the conditions under which these large quadrupeds were destroyed and entombed. Some of Dr. Herz's photographs have lately been presented by Dr. Salensky to the British Museum, and two of them are reproduced in the accompanying figures.

The carcase in question was exposed by a landslip on the bank of the River Beresowka, an affluent of the Kolyma, in the Government of Jakutsk, in latitude 67° 32′ N. The head was entirely uncovered, so that the foxes and other carnivores ate its soft parts, while the inhabitants of a neighbouring village removed a tusk. The Governor of Jakutsk, however, succeeded in keeping the remainder of the specimen undisturbed until the arrival of the expedition from the Academy. It was buried partly in ice, partly in frozen sand and gravel, and there was a sufficient covering of earth to prevent its naturally thawing.

According to the general report published by Dr. Herz,[1] he began to excavate the specimen from the front. In this manner he soon discovered the two fore limbs spread widely apart, and sharply bent at the wrist, as shown in the first photograph (Fig. 1). Proceeding backwards on the left side, he unexpectedly met with the hind foot almost at once, and it gradually became evident that the hind limbs were completely turned forwards beneath the body, as shown in the second photograph (Fig. 2). Dr. Herz then removed the skull, and found the well-preserved tongue hanging out of the mandible. He also noticed that the mouth was filled with grass, which had been cropped, but not chewed and swallowed. Further examination of the carcase showed that the cavity of the chest was filled with clotted blood. It is therefore natural to conclude that the animal was entrapped by falling into a hole, and suddenly died from the bursting of a blood-vessel near the heart while making an effort to extricate itself. As shown by the recent researches

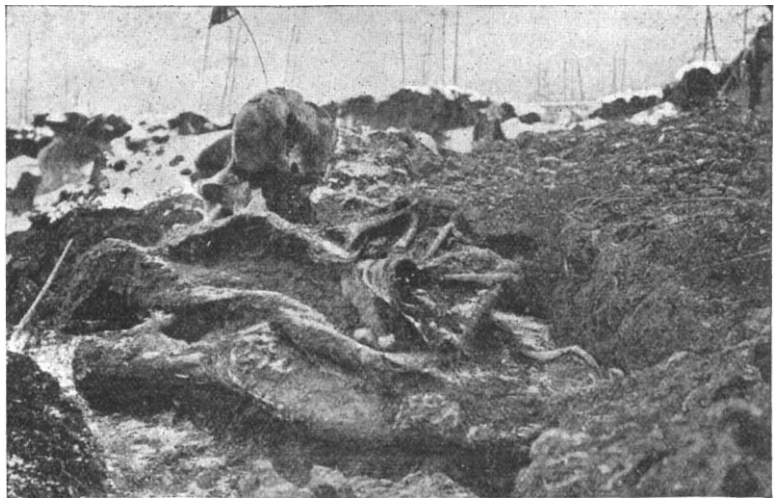

FIG. 2.—Left and partly posterior view of the same specimen, showing the bent left fore limb and the left hind limb turned forwards beneath the body. From photograph by Dr. O. Herz.

[1] "Berichte des Leiters der von der kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften zur Ausgrabung eines Mammuth-kadavers an die Kolyma-Beresowka ausgesandten Expedition" (St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences, 1902).

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of Dr. Tolmatschow,[1] the ice surrounding the carcase was not that of a lake or river, but evidently formed from snow. It is thus quite likely that the mammoth was quietly browsing on grassland which formed the thin covering of a glacier, and fell into a crevasse which was obscured by the loose earth. On this subject, however, much more information may shortly be expected, when Mr. Ssewastianow publishes an account of the geological researches which he made in the neighbourhood of the Beresowka last summer.

The director of the Zoological Museum of St. Petersburg, Dr. W. Salensky, has not only arranged an admirable and unique exhibition of the newly-acquired mammoth, but has also devoted much time to a scientific investigation of the specimen. The results of his researches will be published by the Imperial Academy of Sciences in a series of memoirs, of which the first, dealing with the skeleton, has just appeared. In this work, he not only describes the parts of the new animal, but also refers to the rich collection of remains of the Siberian mammoth already in the museum under his direction. The first instalment, illustrated with twenty-five fine plates of bones and teeth, is unfortunately written only in the Russian language. We venture to express the hope that, when his work is completed, Dr. Salensky will make it more generally accessible by appending a copious abstract in one of the languages with which most naturalists are familiar. A. S. W.

THE ETHNOLOGY OF THE MALAY PENINSULA.[2]

THE scientific results of the Skeat expedition of 1899 to Siam and the Malay Peninsula have not yet been published, but a secondary result of that expedition was the return of Mr. Nelson Annandale to the same district in 1901. Sir William Turner suggested to Mr. Annandale that he should obtain measurements of the people of the Siamese Malay States, and the Edinburgh University gave him a grant for that purpose from the Moray Fund. Mr. H. C. Robinson joined Mr. Annandale, and together they made a most successful expedition, the results of which are now beginning to appear with praiseworthy promptitude, a result that is rendered possible through private munificence in Liverpool. The association of this expedition with the University of Liverpool augurs well for the spirit of that young institution, and we hope that it may continue to foster field work in ethnology.

The present fasciculus contains a general account of the appearance and mode of life of the Semang and Sakai tribes of the Malay Peninsula, of the coast people of Trang, and of the Malays of Perak, and detailed studies of the external physical characteristics of these tribes, together with some valuable osteological observations. So far the authors have presented us with a considerable body of data which are at once available to students for comparative purposes, but they reserve comparisons and discussions until the final part. We look forward with great interest to the fulfilment of this promise, as there are several important ethnological problems connected with the region visited that students at home have no means of solving. When the full results of this expedition are before us, as well as those of the Skeat expedition (which we hope will not long be delayed), we shall be in a better position to reconstruct the anthropological history of a very important district, a knowledge of which is necessary before the ethnological problems of the Indonesian Archipelago can be unravelled.

A general sketch of the main results, from a racial point of view, will be found in the authors' paper in the current number of the *Journal* of the Anthropological Institute, but for the facts on which they are based the student must have recourse to the "Fasciculi Malayenses." Only part i. of this series has yet been published, and as no forecast is given of what is to be expected, one cannot say very much about the accounts of the social life of the jungle tribes, as subsequent parts may render the criticism void. It is safe to say that the physical anthropology is well done, and will prove of permanent value, to which the excellent illustrations of natives materially assist. The characteristic decoration, clothing, implements, habitations, and other details of the several tribes, which an intelligent traveller can readily observe, are carefully noted, and some curious engraved designs and patterns on dart cases, combs, and other objects are figured and partially described. There is an interesting chapter by Mr. Annandale on the beliefs and customs of the Patani fishermen. These Malays have various animal cults, but they certainly do not present any features of true clan totemism. This is followed by the first part of an essay on religion and magic among the Malays of the

FIG. 1.—Semang (Semán) shelter, with kitchen (occupied by married couple); Grit, Upper Perak.

[1] "Bodeneis vom Fluss Beresowka (Nord-ost Sibiriens)," (*Verhandl. k. russ. min. Ges.*, vol. xl. pp. 415–452, pls. v–viii, 1903.)

[2] "Fasciculi Malayenses: Anthropology." Part i. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1903.) Price 15s. net.

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